

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/751,235

Examiner

Jane J Rhee

Applicant(s)

WONG, ALAN

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/01/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12/1/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____. | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Taylor on February 2, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 1, delete the phrase "a structure" and insert phrase --a semiconductor structure--.

In claim 2, line 1, delete the phrase "a structure" and insert phrase --a semiconductor structure--.

In claim 3, line 1, delete the phrase "a structure" and insert phrase --a semiconductor structure--.

In claim 4, line 1, delete the phrase "a structure" and insert phrase --a semiconductor structure--.

In claim 5, line 1, delete the phrase "a structure" and insert phrase --a semiconductor structure--.

In claim 6, line 1, delete the phrase "a structure" and insert phrase --a semiconductor structure--.

In claim 7, line 1, delete the phrase "a structure" and insert phrase --a semiconductor structure--.

Art Unit: 1772

In claim 8, line 1, delete the phrase "a structure" and insert phrase --a semiconductor structure--.

In claim 9, line 1, delete the phrase "a structure" and insert phrase --a semiconductor structure--.

In claim 10, line 1, delete the phrase "a structure" and insert phrase --a semiconductor structure--.

In claim 11, line 1, delete the phrase "a structure" and insert phrase --a semiconductor structure--.

In claim 12, line 1, delete the phrase "a structure" and insert phrase --a semiconductor structure--.

REASONS OF ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to disclose the combination of the limitations of claim 1 as follows, a substrate, a layer of material disposed over the substrate, a first pair of features disposed in the substrate and left exposed by an etch to remove an overlying portion of the layer of material, the first pair of features being equidistant from a first centerline, a second pair of features disposed in the substrate and left embedded below the layer of material, the second pair of features being equidistant from a second centerline, the second pair of features and the first pair of features being coplanar, and a third pair of features disposed in the layer of material, the third pair of features being equidistant from a third centerline, wherein the deviation among the first, second, and third centerlines is a measurement of overlay.

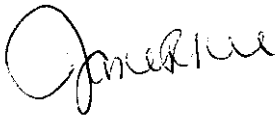
Art Unit: 1772

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

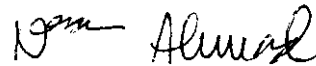
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jane J Rhee whose telephone number is 571-272-1499. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser Ahmad can be reached on 571-272-1487. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and none for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Jane Rhee
February 2, 2004



NASSER AHMAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER